

To Chinese people from a Christian



Lev Tolstoy

To Chinese people from a Christian – by Lev Tolstoy

Armed people who call themselves Christians now commit the greatest villainy among you. Don't believe them: they are not Christians, but a gang of the most horrific, unscrupulous thieves, who continually robbed and are robbing, torturing, perverting, and destroying bodies and souls of all working people, 9/10 of the population in Europe and America, and now are wishing to seize you, rob, conquer, and most importantly, corrupt, because without the corruption of the peoples which they torture, this small gang of thugs wouldn't rule over millions.

These people have no right to call themselves Christians, because all of their teaching, although called Christianity, not only has nothing to do with Christianity, but directly opposite and hostile to it. The main law of Christianity is the recognition that all people are brothers, is doing for others what you want those people to do to you. Christianity forbids not only killing, but anger, cursing; not only adultery, but anything that incites it; forbids an oath, countering violence with violence; instructs to love enemies. But the gang of thugs, now dominating the world, calling itself Christian, builds its whole authority on murder, asserts adultery, oath, requires retribution, and regards the whole world as the enemies and increasingly arms themselves against the enemies. People of this gang began to appear among you long time ago, offering you their wares and their wild faith, which they called Christianity. But when your people wanted to kick them out, they came with arms and killed yours and snatched from them what they needed.

That's how it continued for already several centuries; and, not because you become different, and only because their greed have increased, lately they became more and more dare to attack you, went further and further into your land and captured the lands inhabited by you: Port Arthur, Kiochau, Vejhajvej, etc. This their audacity provoked in some of you the desire to protect yourself from them by the same actions as those they used against you. And they needed only this, and the horrible, brutal massacre began:

killings, devastations, desecrations, executions, which are carried out now among you.

This is all terrible, but the worse of all is that what takes place now among you, there is a danger that they would subvert and pervert you in the same way as they enslaved and corrupted people of our world in Europe and America, by shielding from them the teachings of truth that does people good, and, making of them weak, powerless and satisfied with their slavery slaves, serving as a tool of providing animal pleasures for the crude gang of thugs.

The risk you're facing, is that once you get infected, on one hand, by the charm of the military force, based on murder, preached and demonstrated by the gang of thugs, and, on the other hand – by the charm of childish amenities and glitz of that what they call culture, you'll fall behind from the wise teachings of your leaders, the great Confucius, teaching the true virtue and means of achieving it by internal efforts, and unnoticeably for yourselves you will forfeit your virtues – diligence, peacefulness, respect, and will fall under the same terrible influence, sneaking into the inmost curves of the human soul, under which current European people are deteriorating and withering.

You have true freedom (if by chance you will fall under the attacks of mandarin and its officials, this would be an exception), according to which a person may profess, think, write, read, talk everything he wants, may not participate in the affairs of the government, knowing and professing that the Chinese Emperor is a son of heaven and has the power because he is wise and righteous, and that if he was not such, the obligation of all his subordinates would be to change him.

Europeans have nothing like this.